

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, line 1, immediately following the title "Sandwich Structure," please insert the following paragraphs:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to French patent application Nos. 00209381 filed on or about July 24, 2002 and 0213809 filed on or about November 5, 2002. A related application was also filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty on or about July 21, 2003, as PCT/FR03/02305. The PCT application claims priority to the French patent application.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

On page 1 between lines 6 and 7, please insert the following new header:

Description of the Related Art

On page 2, please replace the paragraph at lines 8-10 with the following:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The purpose of this invention is to eliminate these disadvantages. This purpose is achieved by providing a sandwich structure ... ~~(copy claims here for legal reasons)~~ for protecting a fixed or mobile installation or equipment, said sandwich structure comprising an inner layer and an outer plate made of a very ductile material, fixed at a distance from the inner layer and designed to resist the first impacts of projectiles, the inner layer being made from a very hard material to stop projectiles that passed through the outer plate.

According to the invention, the outer plate has a constant thickness and is fixed on the inner layer using spacers.

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, the elastic elements are inserted between each spacer and the outer plate to resist differential dilatations between the outer plate and the inner layer and to dampen vibrations generated by an impact.

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, the sandwich structure comprises conducting elements placed between the outer plate and the inner layer to provide electrical continuity between the plates.

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, the spacing between the outer plate and the inner layer is of the order of one to a few tens of millimeters.

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, the inner layer is made of steel and the outer plate is made of aluminum.

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, each spacer is provided with a threaded bore, designed to hold an attachment screw fixing the outer plate onto the spacer.

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, each spacer is provided with a threaded bore, designed to hold an attachment screw fixing the spacer onto the inner layer and an attachment screw fixing the outer plate onto the spacer.

On page 2, between lines 10 and 11, please insert the following new section header:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 2, between lines 16 and 17, please insert the following new section header:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION